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(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE
DRIVING CIRCUIT, DISPLAY PANEL,
DISPLAY AND DRIVING METHOD**

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(57)

ABSTRACT

The disclosed technical solution relates to an organic light emitting diode driving circuit, and a display panel, a display and a driving method using the same. The organic light emitting diode driving circuit includes a driving unit, a threshold compensation unit and an organic light emitting diode. The preferred threshold compensation unit comprises 5 transistors and a capacitance. The organic light emitting diode driving circuit compensates the threshold voltage V_{th} of the driving transistor by means of this 6T1C circuit, eliminates the inconsistent operation states of the organic light emitting diode caused by the different threshold voltages of the driving transistor in the entire circuit, thereby solving the problem regarding the brightness and evenness of the organic light emitting diode.

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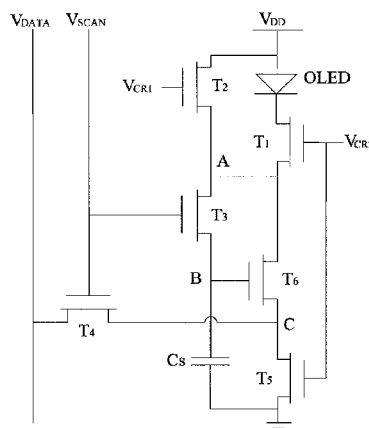
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11 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



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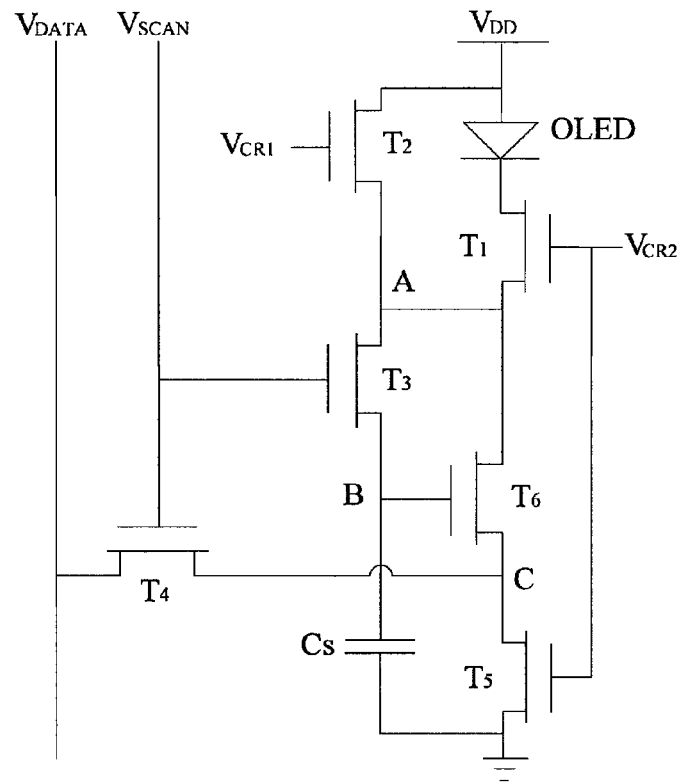


Fig. 1

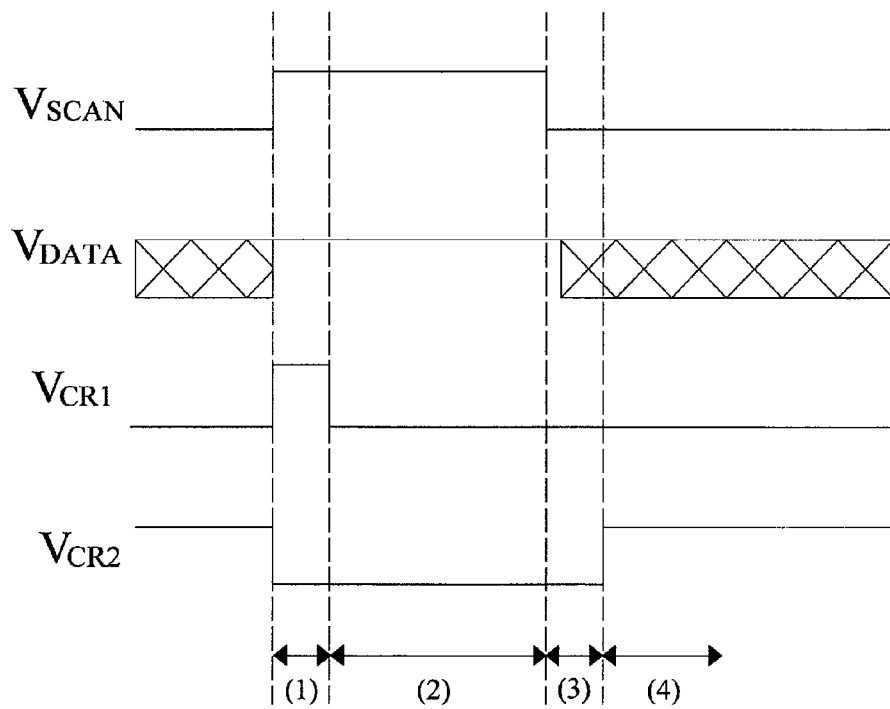


Fig. 2

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ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE DRIVING CIRCUIT, DISPLAY PANEL, DISPLAY AND DRIVING METHOD

BACKGROUND

The disclosed technical solution relates to an organic light emitting diode driving circuit and an organic light emitting diode driving method.

The operation state of the organic light emitting diode directly affects the evenness and brightness thereof. The organic light emitting diode is a current-controlled element and current generated in the thin film transistor in a saturated state is widely used in present to drive. Due to a limitation of the manufacture process, especially the bad evenness and the shift of the threshold voltage V_{th} of the transistor produced through low temperature polycrystalline silicon technique, different driving currents will be produced when voltages of a same grey scale are input. The inconsistent driving currents render the operation state of the organic light emitting diode unstable, which is a main reason for which the brightness evenness of the traditional 2T1C circuit is always bad.

SUMMARY

In order to overcome the defects described above, the disclosed technical solution provides a driving circuit, a display panel, a display and a driving method for the organic light emitting diode which result in a good brightness and evenness of the organic light emitting diode.

For achieving the above purpose, according to an aspect of the disclosed technical solution, there is provided an organic light emitting diode driving circuit comprising an organic light emitting diode, a driving unit controlling a current of the organic light emitting diode and a threshold compensation unit, said threshold compensation unit comprising:

a first electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a cathode of the organic light emitting diode, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a second control voltage;

a second electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a high level, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a first connection terminal of a third electronic switch, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a first control voltage;

the third electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a capacitance, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a scan line;

a fourth electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a data line, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the scan line;

a fifth electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to ground, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the second control voltage; and

the capacitance with a terminal thereof being connected to ground, and the other terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch,

wherein an anode of the organic light emitting diode is connected to the high level, and

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the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch is connected to the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch.

In specific, the driving unit is a driving transistor, a control terminal of the driving transistor is connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch, and the two controlled terminals of the driving transistor are connected to the second connection terminal of the fifth electronic switch and the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch respectively.

In specific, one or more of the first electronic switch, the second electronic switch, the third electronic switch, the fourth electronic switch and the fifth electronic switch is an N-type thin film transistor.

In specific, the driving transistor is an N-type thin film transistor.

An active organic light emitting diode display panel comprising the organic light emitting diode driving circuit described above is provided also.

An active organic light emitting diode display comprising the organic light emitting diode display panel described above is provided also.

Another aspect of the disclosed technical solution provides an organic light emitting diode driving method for using the circuit described above, comprising the steps of:

in a pre-charge phase, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned on in response to a valid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned on in response to the valid voltage of the first control voltage, the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned off in response to an invalid voltage of the second control voltage, and the terminal of the capacitance connected to the third switch transistor being charged to a high level;

in a data writing and discharging compensation phase, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned on in response to the valid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned off in response to an invalid voltage of the first control voltage, the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned off in response to the invalid voltage of the second control voltage, and the capacitance discharging to a valid level value of the data voltage through the driving unit;

in a switch-buffering phase, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned off in response to an invalid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned off in response to an invalid voltage of the first control voltage, and the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned off in response to an invalid voltage of the second control voltage; and

in a driving phase for the organic light emitting diode, the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned on in response to a valid voltage of the second control voltage, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned off in response to an invalid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned off in response to an invalid voltage of the first control voltage, a driving current of the driving unit flowing through the organic light emitting diode to cause it to emit light.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a principle diagram of a first preferable embodiment of a driving circuit for an organic light emitting diode according to the disclosed technical solution.

FIG. 2 is a driving timing chart of the driving circuit shown in FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is described in detail below in combination with the accompany figures and the embodiments.

According to an embodiment of the disclosed technical solution, the driving circuit for the organic light emitting diode uses a diode connection method and discharges to form a threshold voltage V_{th} . That is, the threshold for the driving unit of the organic light emitting diode is compensated by means of the threshold compensation principle so as to eliminate the inconsistent operation states of the organic light emitting diode caused by the different threshold voltages of the driving unit in the entire circuit, thereby solving the problem of the brightness attenuation and unevenness of the organic light emitting diode. The driving circuit used therein includes a driving unit, a threshold compensation unit and an organic light emitting diode. A plurality of connection terminals of the threshold compensation unit are connected to a data line, a scan line, a control voltage, high level V_{DD} , the organic light emitting diode and the driving unit, respectively.

In present embodiment, the threshold compensation unit of the driving circuit for the organic light emitting diode consists of five electronic switches and one capacitance, and the driving unit is a driving transistor. For improving the whole operating performance, the N-type thin film transistor is preferably chosen for the electronic switches and the driving transistor, which are collectively referred to as a 6T1C circuit. The threshold compensation unit of the driving circuit compensates the threshold voltage V_{th} of the driving transistor so that the current of the driving transistor is independent of the threshold voltage V_{th} and thus a target of improving the consistence and evenness of the current of the organic light emitting diode is achieved. The phenomenon that the operating states of the organic light emitting diode are inconsistent due to the different threshold voltages of the driving transistors in the whole circuit is eliminated, thereby solving the problem of attenuation and bad evenness of the brightness of the organic light emitting diode.

Preferred embodiment: as shown in FIG. 1, a first preferable threshold compensation unit of the organic light emitting diode according to the disclosed technical solution comprises:

A first switch transistor T_1 : a source and a drain thereof are connected to a cathode of the light emitting diode and a driving transistor T_6 , respectively, and a gate thereof is connected to a second control voltage V_{CR2} ;

A second switch transistor T_2 : a drain thereof is connected to a high level V_{DD} , a source thereof is connected to a first connection terminal of a third electronic switch, and a gate thereof is connected to a first control voltage V_{CR1} ;

A third switch transistor T_3 : a first connection terminal thereof (point A) is connected to a second connection terminal of the second electronic switch, and a second connection terminal thereof (point B) is connected to a capacitance and a gate thereof is connected to a scan line V_{SCAN} ;

A fourth switch transistor T_4 : a source and a drain thereof are connected to the driving transistor T_6 and a data line V_{DATA} , respectively, and a gate thereof is connected to the scan line V_{SCAN} ;

A fifth switch transistor T_5 : a source thereof is grounded, a drain thereof is connected to the driving transistor T_6 and a gate thereof is connected to the second control voltage V_{CR2} ; and

A capacitance C_S : a terminal thereof is grounded and the other terminal thereof is connected to the second connection terminal of the third switch transistor T_3 .

Wherein, V_{CR1} , V_{CR2} and V_{DD} are output voltages provided by an integrated circuit or generated by a gate driving array circuit dedicated to the low temperature polycrystalline silicon technique.

An anode of the organic light emitting diode OLED is connected to the high level V_{DD} , and a cathode thereof is connected to the first switch transistor T_1 . A gate of the driving transistor T_6 is connected to the terminal B of the third switch transistor, a source C thereof is connected to the fifth switch transistor T_5 and a drain thereof is connected to the first switch transistor T_1 .

In order to improve the operation performance and the integration degree of the whole circuit, all of the first switch transistor T_1 , the second switch transistor T_2 , the third switch transistor T_3 , the fourth switch transistor T_4 , the fifth switch transistor T_5 and the driving transistor T_6 employ N-type thin film transistors.

An up emission manner is employed for the organic light emitting diode in the preferable embodiment of the disclosed technical solution. V_{GS} of the driving transistor depends on only V_{DATA} and will not be affected by the threshold voltage of the organic light emitting diode, which means that the driving current will not be affected by the variations of the threshold voltage of the organic light emitting diode, thereby avoiding the variations of the driving current generated as the threshold voltage of the organic light emitting diode shifts.

As shown in FIG. 2, a driving method for a preferable embodiment of a driving circuit of the organic light emitting diode in the disclosed technical solution comprises the steps of:

1. A pre-charge phase: phase (1) as shown in FIG. 2, wherein V_{SCAN} and V_{CR1} are high levels, and V_{CR2} is a low level. Transistors T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are turned on and transistors T_1 and T_5 are turned off. The two terminals of the storage capacitance C_S are connected to V_{DD} and ground, that is, terminal B of the third switch transistor T_3 is charged to be close to V_{DD} .

2. A data writing and discharging compensation phase: phase (2) as shown in FIG. 2, wherein V_{SCAN} is the high level, and V_{CR1} and V_{CR2} are low levels. Transistors T_3 and T_4 are turned on, transistors T_1 , T_2 and T_5 are turned off, and the gate and the drain of the driving transistor T_6 are connected with each other, and thus the driving transistor T_6 operates equivalently to a diode. The two terminals of the storage capacitance C_S are connected to the gate of the driving transistor T_6 and ground, respectively, while source point C of the driving transistor T_6 is connected to the V_{DATA} line.

In this phase, V_{GS} of the transistor T_6 , that is, the voltage of points B and C (as shown in FIG. 1) is initially at $V_{DD}-V_{DATA}$, and the transistor T_6 turns on. C_S discharges to V_{DATA} through the transistor T_6 , the voltage of C_S gradually decreases, that is, V_{GS} of the transistor T_6 gradually reduces until reaching the threshold voltage of the transistor T_6 . At this time, the transistor T_6 enters a sub-threshold-on state and turns off, C_S stops discharging through T_6 and the voltage across C_S is held at $V_{DATA}+V_{GS}(T_6)$, that is $V_{DATA}+V_{th}$. Due to the voltage-holding function of C_S and the other terminal of C_S being grounded, the gate potential of T_6 is at $V_{DATA}+V_{th}$ at that time.

3. A switch-buffering phase: phase (3) as shown in FIG. 2, wherein V_{SCAN} , V_{CR1} and V_{CR2} are high levels. The transistors T_1 , T_2 , T_3 , T_4 and T_5 are turned off and the gate level of the driving transistor T_6 is stabilized at $V_{DATA}+V_{th}$ by the storage capacitance C_S .

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4. A driving phase for organic light emitting diode: phase (4) as shown in FIG. 2, wherein V_{CR2} is the high level, and V_{SCAN} and V_{CR1} are low levels. The transistors T_1 and T_5 are turned on and the transistors T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are turned off. The driving transistor T_6 works in a saturated area and the driving current flows through the organic light emitting diode to cause the diode to emit light.

C_S causes the gate level of the driving transistor T_6 to be at $V_{DATA}+V_{th}$. The source of the driving transistor T_6 is connected to ground through transistor T_5 which is turned on, that is, the gate-source voltage V_{GS} of the driving transistor T_6 is $V_{GS}=V_{DATA}+V_{th}-V_{GND}=V_{DATA}+V_{th}$.

Accordingly, the saturated current value I_{DS} of FET is $I_{DS}=k(V_{GS}-V_{th})^2=k(V_{DATA}+V_{th}-V_{th})^2$, that is, the threshold voltage V_{th} of the driving transistor T_6 in the driving current value is eliminated and the variations of the current value will not be affected by the shift of the threshold voltage of the driving transistor T_6 any more.

This phase is a light emitting phase for the organic light emitting diode and it will continue to emit light until the next frame of data is written in.

The grid area of V_{DATA} in FIG. 2 represents an invalid signal.

According to an aspect of the disclosed technical solution, an active organic light emitting diode display panel comprising the driving circuit for the organic light emitting diode described above is provided.

According to another aspect of the disclosed technical solution, an active organic light emitting diode display panel comprising the organic light emitting diode display panel described above is provided. The use of the driving circuit for the organic light emitting diode of present invention results a better performance of the active organic light emitting diode display panel and thus the problems relating to attenuation and unevenness of the brightness or the like are effectively solved.

Those described above are only the preferable embodiments of the present invention and the protection scope of the present invention is not limited thereto. Any variation or alternation which is readily conceived by those skilled in the art in the technical scope disclosed by present invention should fall into the protection scope of the present invention. Therefore, the protection scope of the present invention should be determined by the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light emitting diode driving circuit comprising an organic light emitting diode, a driving unit controlling a current of the organic light emitting diode and a threshold compensation unit comprising:

a first electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a cathode of the organic light emitting diode, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a second control voltage;

a second electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a high level, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a first connection terminal of a third electronic switch, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a first control voltage;

the third electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a capacitance, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a scan voltage;

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a fourth electronic switch, with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a data voltage, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the scan voltage;

a fifth electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to ground, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the second control voltage; and

the capacitance with one terminal thereof being connected to ground, and the other terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch,

wherein an anode of the organic light emitting diode is connected to the high level, and

the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch is connected to the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch.

2. The organic light emitting diode driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein the driving unit is a driving transistor, a control terminal of the driving transistor is connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch, and the two connection terminals of the driving transistor are connected to the second connection terminal of the fifth electronic switch and the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch respectively.

3. The organic light emitting diode driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first electronic switch, the second electronic switch, the third electronic switch, the fourth electronic switch and the fifth electronic switch is an N-type thin film transistor.

4. The organic light emitting diode driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the first electronic switch, the second electronic switch, the third electronic switch, the fourth electronic switch and the fifth electronic switch is an N-type thin film transistor.

5. The organic light emitting diode driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein the driving transistor is an N-type thin film transistor.

6. An active organic light emitting diode display panel having an organic light emitting diode driving circuit including an organic light emitting diode, a driving unit controlling a current of the organic light emitting diode and a threshold compensation unit, said threshold compensation unit comprising:

a first electronic switch, a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a cathode of the organic light emitting diode, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a second control voltage;

a second electronic switch, a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a high level, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a first connection terminal of a third electronic switch, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a first control voltage;

the third electronic switch, a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a capacitance, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a scan voltage;

a fourth electronic switch, a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a data

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voltage, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the scan voltage;
 a fifth electronic switch, a first connection terminal thereof being connected to ground, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the second control voltage; and
 the capacitance, one terminal thereof being connected to ground, and the other terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch,
 wherein an anode of the organic light emitting diode is connected to the high level, and
 the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch is connected to the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch.

7. An organic light emitting diode driving method for using an active organic light emitting diode display panel having an organic light emitting diode driving circuit, said organic light emitting diode driving circuit including an organic light emitting diode, a driving unit controlling a current of the organic light emitting diode and a threshold compensation unit, said threshold compensation unit comprising: a first electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a cathode of the organic light emitting diode, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a second control voltage; a second electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to a high level, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a first connection terminal of a third electronic switch, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a first control voltage; the third electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a capacitance, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to a scan voltage; a fourth electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to a data voltage, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the scan voltage; a fifth electronic switch with a first connection terminal thereof being connected to ground, a second connection terminal thereof being connected to the driving unit, and a switch control terminal thereof being connected to the second control voltage; and the capacitance with one terminal thereof being connected to ground, and the other terminal thereof being connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch, an anode of the organic light emitting diode being connected to the high level, and the second connection terminal of the second electronic switch being connected to the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch, said method comprising the steps of:

in a pre-charge phase, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned on in response to a valid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being

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turned on in response to the valid voltage of the first control voltage, the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned off in response to an invalid voltage of the second control voltage, and the terminal of the capacitance connected to the third switch transistor being charged to the high level;
 in a data writing and discharging compensation phase, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned on in response to the valid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned off in response to the invalid voltage of the first control voltage, the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned off in response to the invalid voltage of the second control voltage, and the capacitance discharging to the valid level value of the data voltage through the driving unit;
 in a switch-buffering phase, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned off in response to the invalid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned off in response to the invalid voltage of the first control voltage, and the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned off in response to the invalid voltage of the second control voltage; and
 in a driving phase for the organic light emitting diode, the first and the fifth electronic switches being turned on in response to the valid voltage of the second control voltage, the third and the fourth electronic switches being turned off in response to the invalid level of the scan voltage, the second electronic switch being turned off in response to the invalid voltage of the first control voltage, a driving current of the driving unit flowing through the organic light emitting diode to cause it to emit light.

8. The organic light emitting diode driving method according to claim 7, wherein the driving unit is a driving transistor, a control terminal of the driving transistor is connected to the second connection terminal of the third electronic switch, and the two connection terminals of the driving transistor are connected to the second connection terminal of the fifth electronic switch and the second connection terminal of the first electronic switch respectively.

9. The organic light emitting diode driving method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the first electronic switch, the second electronic switch, the third electronic switch, the fourth electronic switch and the fifth electronic switch is an N-type thin film transistor.

10. The organic light emitting diode driving method according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the first electronic switch, the second electronic switch, the third electronic switch, the fourth electronic switch and the fifth electronic switch is an N-type thin film transistor.

11. The organic light emitting diode driving method according to claim 8, wherein the driving transistor is an N-type thin film transistor.

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